

Principles of State-Building in Modern Management and Security Strategy in Ukraine

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Abstract

State-building and the study of this process is relevant for every country. Ukraine is no exception. Firstly, the relevance of the topic is enhanced in the context of the ongoing Russian aggression. This conflict reflects the historical and political ties between Ukraine and Russia and affects the processes of state-building and defense. It challenges Ukraine to strengthen its military potential, develop international alliances, and develop effective strategies to counter external threats. Also, the situation opens up the possibility of a deeper understanding of the impact of historical aspects of state-building on Ukraine's current policies and strategic decisions. Secondly, an analysis of historical and contemporary state-building and defense strategies is critical to understanding how Ukraine can adapt and develop in this environment. This article aims to review key stages and aspects of state-building in Ukraine, with a focus on current governance approaches and defense strategy. Through a detailed analysis of these areas, we aim to understand how Ukraine is responding to current challenges and what prospects it has for strengthening its statehood and security. The purpose of the article is to study the long historical process of Ukraine's statehood, which began before the creation of Kievan Rus and continued even when Ukrainian lands were part of other states. The authors try to show how historical traditions and the development of Ukrainian statehood, which were laid down in ancient times, became the basis for the development of modern Ukraine and its civilizational progress. In addition, the authors believe that the current stage of Ukraine's development is important for its future functioning, and therefore the article also aims to show what challenges Ukraine faces in terms of strengthening its military potential, strengthening international alliances, and developing effective

strategies to counter external threats. The key research method used by the authors is the method of analysis and synthesis. This method provided a deeper understanding of the complexity and multidimensionality of the topic.

Keywords: state-building, public administration, security and defense, war in Ukraine, Russian aggression, stages of state-building.

1. Introduction

In the current circumstances, the topic of state-building and defense strategy is of particular importance for countries undergoing periods of intense transformation. Ukraine is at the forefront of geopolitical changes and challenges. This is a vivid example of how the historical past, political reforms and defense policy interact to shape the future of the state. Studying and analyzing these aspects provides an opportunity to better understand how Ukraine is shaping its statehood in the context of modern governance and defense challenges. According to Ukrainian scholar Semenov V., state-building is the process of creating, developing, improving and modernizing the system of government that is taking place at the present stage or has taken place in the historical past on the territory of the state. It covers the relations of individuals, communities, and political institutions in the realization of their interests in the sphere of power (Semenov, 2008).

From the very first days of its existence, sovereign Ukraine faced the problem of proper state-building in the political and geopolitical realities of its modern existence. The primary problem of state-building in a state in the process of formation is the difficulty of building a proper and democratic vertical of state power that would meet European standards and the requirements of coexistence of civilized peoples (Piatkovskyi, 2021).

The development of Ukraine's statehood, which spans centuries of history, plays a key role in shaping its modern political and social identity. Having gone through periods of ups and downs, Ukraine is now facing new challenges that require not only flexibility and adaptability, but also the ability to develop effective governance and defense strategies.

Ukraine has a long history, which testifies to the continuous development of its statehood. This process began even before the creation of Kievan Rus. Even when Ukrainian lands were part of other states as administrative-territorial units, the process of state-building continued. These traditions, established in ancient times, became the basis for the development of modern Ukraine and its civilizational progress (Hedikova, 2018).

The relevance of the topic is particularly heightened in the context of the ongoing war with Russia. Russian aggression not only poses a direct challenge to Ukraine's security and sovereignty, but also reflects the deep historical and political ties between the two countries. This conflict situation directly affects the processes of state-building and defense in Ukraine, posing urgent tasks for the country to strengthen its military capabilities, strengthen international alliances, and develop effective strategies to counter external threats. At the same time, the situation allows for a deeper understanding of how historical aspects of state-building influence modern politics and strategic decisions. The war with Russia not only calls for a revision of existing approaches to national security, but also prompts a rethinking of Ukraine's historical experience, cultural identity, and foreign policy course.

The situation that has developed as a result of hostilities requires a deep analysis of the fundamental principles on which Ukrainian statehood is built, as well as the mechanisms for responding to external challenges. The Russian aggression has become a catalyst for important changes in Ukraine's public administration and defense sectors. The war has highlighted a number of challenges that Ukraine faces on its way to strengthening its statehood and independence. This includes the need to develop new defense strategies, adapt governance structures to martial law, and find effective ways to ensure national security.

Thus, an analysis of Ukraine's current state-building and defense policy is not only relevant, but also necessary to understand the country's path of further development in the face of growing external and internal challenges.

Realizing the depth of the challenges that Ukraine is facing as a result of Russia's military aggression prompts us to look at the historical roots of Ukrainian statehood. The history of Ukraine's statehood is not just a chronicle of events, but also an indicator of how the past influences the present and determines future strategies. Each stage of historical development has played a role in shaping the modern Ukrainian nation and its political, social and defense paradigms.

From the ancient times of Kievan Rus, through the periods of Lithuanian and Polish domination, through the Cossack statehood and imperial oppression, to the establishment of independence in 1991, each historical era has contributed to the development and shaping of Ukrainian identity. Understanding this historical path is key to responding to the current challenges facing Ukraine (Tymoshenko & Chupriy, 2023).

Thus, by returning to the roots of history, we can better understand how the past shapes today's reality, influencing strategic decisions made in the current conflict. A historical overview will allow us to assess how historical events and state-building processes have influenced the formation of the modern Ukrainian state, its governance structures and defense strategy. Therefore, in the following, we will provide a brief overview of the historical stages of Ukraine's development and show the relationship between historical events and state-building processes in the current context.

2. Methodological Framework

The main method used for the study is analysis and synthesis. The analysis consists of breaking down the topic into key elements, such as the historical development of Ukrainian statehood, current governance structures, defense strategies, and foreign policy relations. Particular attention is paid to the analysis of changes in Ukrainian defense policy in response to external threats. Synthesis is the integration of the analyzed data to form a holistic view of the current foundations of state-building and defense of Ukraine. This includes generalizing the identified trends, problems and opportunities that affect the development of the state. This approach allows for a deeper understanding of the complexity and multidimensionality of the topic, as well as identifying potential areas for further development and research.

The author used the historical method to analyze many important issues in the article. This method is to study the history and development of the objects of study from their beginning to the present, following the chronological sequence of events. This includes the study of historical periods, key historical figures and events that influenced the formation of national identity, political system and defense strategy. This approach allows us to understand current challenges and strategies through the lens of historical experience, providing a deeper context for understanding current policies and decisions. First of all, this method is applied to the general analysis of Ukraine's history in different time periods. Based on this, the authors concluded that the process of Ukraine's state-building did not stop even when it was part of other states. Also, the use of the historical method made it possible to identify the grounds that led to Ukraine's current problems. Also, based on the combination of the analysis method and the historical method, the authors concluded that the current conflict with Russia is not only logical from the point of view of historical relations, but is also an important stage in the Ukrainian state-building. It is a civilizational challenge that has further led to Ukraine's integration into European society.

The author also applied the formal legal method. It was used to analyze certain legal acts that were important in the context of retrospective analysis. In addition, this method was used to analyze the current legislation of Ukraine, which is important in the context of civil-military cooperation as one of the important principles that should be applied to public administration.

The systematic method in scientific research is to analyze complex phenomena as integral systems. This method involves considering the object of study as a set of interconnected elements that function together to form a single structure. This implies considering Ukraine as a complex system that includes political, economic, social, and defense components. This allows us to analyze how different aspects interact and influence the overall functioning of the state, including the formulation and implementation of the defense strategy. This approach helps to identify strengths and

weaknesses, potential threats and opportunities, and contributes to the development of effective strategic decisions.

The authors also used a predictive method. This is used to assess future trends and challenges in these areas. The method involves analyzing current data and trends to make informed predictions about future developments. This may include assessing changes in international relations, economic conditions, domestic political processes, and technological innovations that may affect Ukraine's state-building and defense strategy. In this article, this method is used to identify the principles of governance in modern conditions, as well as to identify the main directions of modernization of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. It also emphasizes the need to strengthen defense capabilities and social development, including education and health care, to build a stable, democratic and prosperous state.

3. Results

3.1. Stages of Ukrainian State-Building and the Impact of Historical Events on Modern Statehood

The development of Ukraine's statehood can be traced through a number of historical stages, each of which played a unique role in the formation of the modern Ukrainian nation and its statehood. Since the 9th century, Kievan Rus has been the cradle of East Slavic culture, setting the foundation for the political and cultural development of the region (Terlyuk, 2022). This ancient Ukrainian heritage became the foundation for the subsequent historical path.

From the 14th century, Ukrainian lands came under the influence of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and later the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, which brought with it a mixture of cultures and the influence of the Polish-Lithuanian aristocracy. This period was important for the formation of social and religious relations on the Ukrainian territory.

The 16th century saw the birth of the Cossacks, who played a key role in the defense of Ukrainian lands and the struggle for autonomy. Uniting their efforts under the leadership of Bohdan Khmelnytsky, the Ukrainian Cossacks opposed the Polish gentry, culminating in the Pereyaslav Rada of 1654 and the subsequent unification with the Moscow Kingdom (Trojan & Kiridon, 2019).

However, since the 18th century, after the partition of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Ukrainian lands have been under the rule of the Russian Empire and Austria-Hungary, which led to the division of national lands and differences in their development.

In the 20th century, during the period of turbulence and change that swept across Europe, Ukraine experienced a movement toward national independence. The Ukrainian People's Republic of 1917-1921, although short-lived, was an important step toward the self-identification of the Ukrainian people. The events of World War II also had a significant impact on the formation of national consciousness.

Independence, gained in 1991, was the culmination of a long struggle for independence and international recognition. The declaration of Ukraine's independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union opened a new page in the history of Ukrainian statehood. It was a time of great challenges and opportunities, a period of formation of new state institutions, adoption of its own legislation and formation of foreign policy relations.

Since independence, Ukraine has faced numerous internal and external challenges, including economic difficulties, political changes, and the development of a new governance system. Nevertheless, the country has demonstrated its capacity for democratic reforms and gradual integration into the European community. There is no doubt that the success of the state-building process is ensured by the formation of a national idea and the creation of conditions for its implementation (Hedikova, 2018).

The most serious test for Ukrainian statehood was the annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014 and the subsequent full-scale military aggression. These events not only provoked a deep national crisis, but also made significant adjustments to domestic and foreign policy. They emphasized the need to develop a new, more effective defense and security strategy, and contributed to the strengthening of national identity and patriotism (Golovin et al., 2022).

In general, the history of Ukrainian state-building is a complex and multifaceted process that reflects the interweaving of centuries-old traditions, cultural influences, political struggles, and social changes. Each stage of this journey has contributed to the formation of modern Ukraine, its statehood, society and politics, including in response to current challenges and military threats (Zagurska-Antoniuk, 2020).

A study of value preferences among young people in Ukraine found that about 60% of young people prefer individual freedom to social equality, which is supported by only a quarter of respondents. These data indicate a shift in the value orientations of the younger generation compared to middle-aged and older people, who are more likely to support the principles of equality and less likely to value individual freedom. For today's youth in Ukraine, in addition to economic reforms, a significant aspect is to ensure that people can influence government decisions and develop a humane society where respect for human individuality is at the center of attention (Starovoytova, 2016).

Thus, historical events and processes of state-building play a crucial role in the formation of modern Ukrainian statehood, providing a unique context for understanding current challenges and determining the ways of further development of Ukraine.

3.2. State-Building Processes in the Context of Ukraine's Defense Strategy

In the context of state-building, Ukraine's defense strategy is a key aspect that reflects both the country's historical path and its response to modern challenges. From the times of Kievan Rus, through the Cossack era, to the present day, Ukraine's history demonstrates the need to create an effective defense system capable of protecting its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Since gaining independence in 1991, Ukraine has begun to develop its own defense strategy, taking into account its historical past and geopolitical position. This became especially important after 2014, when Ukraine faced direct military aggression from Russia.

As noted by a prominent scientist and academician of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine Horbulin (2017): "The events that took place in early 2014, in particular Russia's annexation of Crimea and occupation of part of eastern Ukraine, showed that Ukraine's national security system was ineffective and did not take into account the peculiarities of new type of warfare. The reasons for this inefficiency lie not only in the declarative nature of the security policy, but also in the systematic and deliberate degradation of state institutions that was observed in previous years. All this has led to a systemic weakening of our state."

In response to these challenges, Ukraine launched large-scale reforms of its military sector (Vlasiuk, 2016). This included re-equipment and modernization of the army, introduction of new standards of combat training, and approximation to NATO standards. In addition, efforts to promote international military cooperation, in particular in the area of military technical assistance and training missions, have intensified.

It should be noted that the development of the Armed Forces and defense capabilities of Ukraine is a key element of its national security and state policy. Restoring and modernizing the country's military potential, especially in light of recent challenges and conflicts, has become a priority for the Ukrainian government. Based on the analysis of scientific sources and taking into account the current situation, five main areas of modernization of the Armed Forces of Ukraine can be identified:

1. Modernization of military equipment and infrastructure. Ukraine is actively working to upgrade and modernize its military equipment, including weapons, armored vehicles, aviation and naval systems. This includes purchasing the latest equipment and modernizing existing systems.

Modernization of the military infrastructure is one of the key aspects of the development of defense capabilities of any state, and Ukraine is no exception. In the context of ensuring national security and adapting to modern military challenges, upgrading military infrastructure has become a priority for the Ukrainian government.

The modernization process covers a wide range of activities, from updating weapons and military equipment to the construction and reconstruction of military bases and facilities. Modern

military equipment, including advanced fire control systems, unmanned aerial vehicles, and state-of-the-art communications equipment, is an integral part of this process.

Special attention is also paid to improving the infrastructure of military bases and training centers. This includes expanding and modernizing barracks, warehouses, repair shops, and medical facilities (Skosyrskyi & Vdovin, 2018). An important element is the introduction of new technologies to improve the efficiency of logistics and resource management (Kovalova et al., 2019). In addition, the modernization of Ukraine's military infrastructure includes the development of the military-industrial complex, which plays a key role in supplying the necessary military products and serves as the basis for innovation in the defense sector.

All of these measures form the basis for ensuring Ukraine's readiness to protect its national interests and respond to current and future security challenges, while strengthening its position in the international arena in the context of defense cooperation and partnership.

2. Reforming the structure and command and control. Ukraine's armed forces have undergone significant reforms to improve command and control. Implementation of NATO standards in command, control, training and logistics is an important part of these reforms.

3. Training and education of military personnel. Significant attention is paid to the training and professional development of the military. Improving training programs, including combat tactics, logistics, and medical training, is a key factor in strengthening defense capabilities.

4. International cooperation. Ukraine is actively developing international military cooperation. This includes participation in international military exercises, cooperation in the field of defense equipment, and exchange of experience with other countries. It is worth noting that international military partnerships and cooperation play a crucial role in strengthening Ukraine's defense capabilities. In the context of globalization and growing threats to international security, Ukraine is actively developing military cooperation with other countries and international organizations. This cooperation covers a wide range of aspects, including joint exercises, exchange of experience, development of military-technical partnerships, as well as political and diplomatic support. Strengthening international relations contributes to improving Ukraine's defense capabilities, ensuring its ability to respond effectively to current challenges and threats, and contributes to international stability and security.

5. Increased defense budget. The Government of Ukraine has increased funding for the defense sector, providing the necessary resources to modernize the army and improve the conditions of service for military personnel.

Thus, Ukraine is taking significant steps to strengthen its national defense. By modernizing its army and improving training, as well as intensifying international military cooperation, Ukraine is demonstrating its commitment to ensuring its own security and defense. This comprehensive approach to defense is key to ensuring Ukraine's resilience and independence in the modern world.

Equally important has been the strengthening of civil-military relations, which involves democratic control over the military and the involvement of civil society in defense policy discussions (Fedorchenko, 2023). Such engagement is aimed at ensuring transparency and accountability in the defense sector.

The current problem of formulating a defense strategy is manifested not only in the issue of state activity, but also in the result of new types of threats that arise in the modern world (Vonsovyh, 2017). Putin has already proved that even powerful democratic countries with deep traditions of democratic governance, strong state institutions, including a strong security and defense sector, are vulnerable to hybrid aggression primarily because of the existence of real democracy. For Ukraine, this challenge is even more critical. That is why all democratic states are now facing the question of how to find a balance between preserving democracy and ensuring state security. After all, more rigid and non-democratic models of governance are obviously better able to cope with hybrid challenges (Horbulin, 2017). In this context, it is important to take into account the latest hybrid threats that are emerging around the world and to formulate our own defense strategy with this disadvantage in mind. Therefore, it is necessary to develop a qualitatively new concept of the national security system and

its key component - the security and defense sector of Ukraine. The main task of this sector is to ensure an effective and timely response to various types of threats, relying mainly on domestic resources and making rational use of available capabilities. An important aspect is the transformation from situational response to ongoing comprehensive strategic analysis, which will become the basis for the development and implementation of state security and defense strategies.

The need to reform the Armed Forces of Ukraine became clear only after the Russian invasion. This event forced a rethinking of approaches to defense strategy and opened up new perspectives in military capacity building. Ukraine subsequently launched important defense reforms aimed at strengthening military power and effectiveness. These measures included modernizing weapons, improving infrastructure, and developing international military partnerships. These changes in the military demonstrate the close link between the country's defense capabilities and its state-building processes. Strengthening the defense sector has become a key aspect of Ukraine's path to statehood.

3.3. Principles of State-Building in Modern Governance

The central subject of the experience of modern state-building is the relationship in the triangle of society-elites-state. The first component plays a leading role in it (Smoliiy, 2017). According to Ukrainian researcher Kononenko N., for the harmonious consensual approval of common national values and provisions of a unifying common identity, it is necessary to complete the process of Ukrainian national genesis. The question of the possibility of creating unified value narratives that unite Ukrainians remains an active discursive issue (Kononenko, 2019). This process involves not only recognizing the diversity of historical, cultural, and regional characteristics, but also actively discussing and agreeing on common values, which helps to strengthen internal unity. Such unification is an important factor in overcoming differences and achieving social cohesion.

The importance of the national idea in public administration lies in the formation of a common vision and goals that unite society. The national idea helps determine the strategic direction of the state's development and creates the basis for effective policy and management decisions. It helps to ensure social cohesion, strengthens national identity, and promotes mutual understanding between different groups of the population. In the context of public administration, the national idea serves as the basis for the formation of responsible, transparent and effective government.

In addition, the national idea in public administration contributes to the development of policies that take into account the unique needs and values of the nation. It becomes the basis for mobilizing the resources and energy of citizens in solving national problems, and helps build resilience to external challenges and internal crises. In the context of globalization, the national idea helps to preserve cultural identity and fosters a sense of pride and belonging to one's country.

We can state that the current stage of Ukraine's development is a key stage in its state-building. We believe that in the future, the war will become a milestone in Ukraine's state-building. On the one hand, Ukraine is deterring Russian military aggression, which is important for its existence as a state. On the other hand, Ukraine is rapidly moving towards membership in the EU and other key international organizations. Therefore, the current stage of public administration in the context of state-building must meet the requirements of modernity. Adaptation of public sector organizations implies not only their adjustment to new conditions, but also the search for the most optimal state in which productive activity of the relevant structures is possible (Karamyshev et al., 2022a). In particular, we can identify a number of principles that must be observed in management. First of all, it is the ability to respond quickly to changes or flexibility and adaptability. Flexibility and adaptability in the context of public administration, especially in wartime, imply the ability to make quick decisions and adapt to changing circumstances. This means not only responding quickly to current challenges at the front, but also the ability to reassess strategies and tactics in response to new threats and opportunities. Flexibility also includes effective management of resources, including logistics, troop distribution, and the use of technology. Adaptability in this context also means readiness for changes in domestic and international political scenarios.

Flexibility and adaptability in governance systems in the context of state-building is crucial. This includes the ability to respond quickly to changes, the effective use of quality assurance tools, and the adaptation of management decisions to the needs of the country. It is important to understand the methods that ensure quality management and to have the flexibility to apply these methods to implement the necessary changes in various areas, from raw materials to final products or services. The existence of conditions for quality improvement is critical for the successful management of state-building processes (Shulyar, 2018).

Many countries, including European ones, have a lack of adaptability in their governance systems. These are especially those countries that have not experienced global shocks. However, the current situation demonstrates that security vectors have changed dramatically, and no country today is adequately protected from military invasion. In the same context, pandemics or natural disasters are also a threat. Countries were unprepared for the COVID-19 epidemic or earthquakes that occurred on their territories, such as in Turkey, Syria, etc. States are not prepared for nuclear disasters and wars. This is the main problem that this principle should solve. Lack of flexibility and adaptability in governance can lead to a number of shortcomings, especially in a crisis or military conflict. This may include slow response to changing conditions, inefficient use of resources, and inability to adequately respond to new threats. It can also lead to the loss of strategic advantages and opportunities. Lack of flexibility limits the ability to innovate and evolve, which is critical in the dynamic world of modern conflicts and challenges. This is important for all states. But it is especially important for those that are in the process of state-building or facing milestone crises, as Ukraine is today.

The second principle important for governance in the context of state-building is the principle of integration of civilian and military efforts. This principle in public administration means creating a single system that combines the resources and efforts of both spheres to achieve common goals. Communication in public administration in general is a process of social interaction through messages, the content of which is public administration, the implementation of public power and public policy. This means that the scope of this communication affects not only the public administration system itself, but is also far beyond it and covers the social space that extends from the highest decision-makers in public affairs to everyone who is at least partially concerned by these affairs (Dreshpak, 2015).

This implies coordinated work of civilian authorities and military structures, information exchange and coordination of actions. It is important to understand that military power and civilian stability are interconnected. This integration allows for more efficient use of resources, optimization of management processes, and a better response to internal and external challenges.

During martial law in Ukraine, one of the key tasks of the state is to create an effective system of territorial defense, as provided for by the Law of Ukraine "On the Basics of National Resistance", 2021. This task requires coordinated work of public authorities, military leadership and active participation of citizens (On the basics of national resistance). Specific issues related to the organizational and legal aspects of interaction between civilian structures and military authorities, as well as coordination between the Armed Forces of Ukraine, executive authorities, local self-government and civil society organizations, are regulated by the following legal acts (Karamyshev et al., 2022b).

The legal regime of civil-military cooperation in Ukraine includes the implementation of a number of measures aimed at cooperation between the Armed Forces, other state structures, executive authorities, local self-government, public and volunteer organizations. This involves coordinating joint actions to address issues related to the life of the civilian population using military and civilian resources (Nastiuk et al., 2020).

The integration of civilian and military efforts also includes the effective use of military expertise in civilian projects, ensuring support for national security and development. It is important to develop mechanisms for cooperation between different agencies and institutions, and to create joint action plans for crisis situations. The role of civil society in supporting military efforts is also important, in particular through volunteer assistance and public support initiatives. All of this helps

to create a holistic and multifaceted system capable of effectively addressing national security and defense challenges.

We have identified the third principle, and this is the principle of strategic planning. Strategic planning in governance in the context of statehood formation means defining long-term goals and strategies for the country's development. Strategic planning can be defined as a dynamic process that includes the development, periodic adjustment and implementation of structured plans. This process involves adaptation to external and internal changes, systematic monitoring and analytical evaluation of the effectiveness of the implemented measures. The main goal is to optimize strategic decisions to achieve the organization's long-term goals (Kulakova, 2016).

Strategic planning in the context of statehood formation is based on the definition of goals and objectives that arise during the development of the state strategy, as well as on forecasts of the development of various spheres. This process helps the state to adapt to changes in the external environment, ensures coordination between different sectors, improves control and solves current problems. Effective strategic planning, supported by ongoing planning, ensures that strategic goals are achieved and maintains the continuity and interconnectedness of different plans (Harnaga, 2016). This process includes analyzing the internal and external factors that affect the state, developing plans to achieve these goals, and establishing mechanisms to monitor their implementation. Effective strategic planning allows the state to adapt to changes, use resources optimally, and respond to current challenges. This creates the basis for sustainable development and successful state-building.

Finally, the fourth principle that we highlight is information openness and propaganda, including effective public information and information warfare. In this context, it is important to discuss the right to information, freedom of speech, and restrictions on it under martial law. We will not dwell on this in detail, as it is a complex topic that deserves a separate scientific discussion. In the context of state-building, it is worth emphasizing here that information openness and propaganda in the context of public administration and information warfare means strategic and effective dissemination of information to the public. This includes both transparently informing citizens about government activities and using information channels to shape public opinion and counter disinformation. It is important to develop and implement communication strategies aimed at supporting national interests, educating and engaging citizens, and countering propaganda campaigns from outside.

As noted by Parkhomenko-Kutsevil (2020) manipulation of information by government agencies can lead to misperception of political decisions and reforms, while insufficient information leads to resistance to change. The main aspects of national security include not only military security, but also information security, which protects against negative information influences. Information openness of the authorities is critical for building trust and support of the population, playing a key role in ensuring national security. Currently, we are witnessing a situation where the population is not fully aware of the decisions and actions of the government, parliament and local governments regarding quarantine. This leads to a misunderstanding by citizens of the need for these restrictions and, as a result, to their non-compliance, which increases the incidence of disease. Thus, ensuring information transparency by the authorities is key to complying with quarantine measures and reducing the incidence rate, and is also strategically important for ensuring the national security of the country.

Information transparency and outreach are important because they contribute to maintaining government transparency, public trust, and the ability to effectively counter disinformation. They help to shape public opinion, support national interests, and ensure public engagement and education. In wartime, it is also a key element in countering enemy propaganda campaigns, strengthening morale and preserving social cohesion.

Thus, modern governance takes place in extremely difficult conditions and requires authorized persons to act in a clear and coordinated manner. In today's environment, Ukraine needs to ensure effective governance, including clear coordination of government actions, adequate response to changes, and resilience to external and internal challenges. This is critical to preserving its

sovereignty as a democratic state in Europe. Particular attention should be paid to ensuring human rights, developing democracy, and integrating with international organizations for support and cooperation.

4. Discussion

The work of the prominent scientist and academician of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine Horbulin is important in the context of the research topic. Thus, he emphasizes that national security is the most critical element of state-building. This article is important for understanding the role of national security in the processes of state-building and defense in Ukraine. It describes how the national security system has evolved since the beginning of the twenty-first century, drawing attention to the lack of an unambiguous definition of this concept in research. The author analyzes how approaches to national security have changed, noting the blurring of the boundaries between national security and security strategies in the context of national, regional and global relations. The article is important for understanding the current challenges and strategies in Ukraine's defense sector. The article also highlights the importance of Ukraine's integration into international security structures, which is a key factor in strengthening its defense capabilities and influencing global security. The discussion of military infrastructure and modernization of the Armed Forces of Ukraine emphasizes the importance of strategic planning and resource provision for effective response to modern threats, including hybrid threats (Horbulin, 2017).

In the light of understanding the historical stages of statehood formation, the scientific work of Troyan and Kiridon. This work is important for the study of Ukrainian statehood, as it highlights the stages of statehood in Ukraine, analyzing through a cross-historical approach. Particular attention is paid to the impact of historical events on the formation of the Ukrainian state, its political and cultural identity. The authors also examine how different historical periods contributed to the emergence of the Ukrainian national movement and the desire for independence, which are key to understanding the modern process of state-building in Ukraine. The article also emphasizes the importance of understanding the historical context in the formation of Ukrainian statehood. The authors examine in detail the historical stages, from ancient Russian times to the present, and their impact on the political and cultural life of Ukraine. By analyzing these stages, the article provides a deep understanding of the transformations that have taken place in Ukraine and emphasizes their significance for modern state-building and identity (Troyan & Kiridon, 2019).

The authors also took into account the work of Kononenko N. This work explores important aspects of the value component of the current stage of state-building in Ukraine. The author analyzes the main reasons for the slow modernization of Ukrainian society, focusing on the dominance of paternal values and the lack of unifying value narratives. N. Kononenko also highlights the role of oligarchic structures in this process. The study is significant in the context of our research, as it highlights key aspects of the formation of national identity and values, which are critical for understanding the processes of state-building and development of modern Ukraine (Kononenko, 2019).

In the context of civil-military cooperation, the work of Nastiuk et al. (2020) focuses on the study of civil-military cooperation in the context of the organization of medical evacuation support of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. It analyzes how this interaction is formed and developed within a single medical space, and identifies the conceptual framework and organizational and legal principles for improving these processes. The article is important for the research topic because it provides a deep understanding of the integration of military and civilian healthcare efforts, which is a key aspect of effective national defense and crisis response (Nastiuk et al., 2020).

Many researchers from various scientific fields are actively engaged in the issue of national security and its impact on the formation of modern states. In the scientific literature on this topic, there is often a confusion of concepts. In addition, the unforeseen circumstances and emergency conditions in which Ukraine is currently experiencing are often not taken into account. At the same

time, we cannot deny the fact that the current armed conflict is a historical stage in the formation of Ukrainian statehood.

In the current context of state-building, Ukraine is facing several key areas of development. Integration with the European Union and NATO has the potential to strengthen the country's security and political stability. Economic reforms and development are crucial to stimulate growth and attract investment. Strengthening democracy, the rule of law, and fighting corruption will play a key role in shaping Ukraine's future. Strengthening defense capabilities and social development, including education and healthcare, are also important to build a stable, democratic and prosperous state (Korniienko et al., 2020; Smokov et al., 2022).

Geopolitical tensions have a significant impact on Ukraine, as it is located in a strategically important region between the East and the West. This includes external challenges such as Russian aggression, the need to adapt to rapidly changing geopolitical realities, and the need to strengthen defense capabilities and international alliances. Ukraine faces challenges in ensuring national security and integration with European structures, which requires a flexible and wise foreign policy. To adapt Ukraine to geopolitical challenges, it is recommended to:

- strengthening international alliances, especially with the EU and NATO, to provide security and support;
- development of internal defense and security, including army modernization and preparation for hybrid threats;
- strengthening economic stability and attracting investment to increase economic independence;
- continuation of democratic reforms to maintain political stability and ensure human rights;
- an active communication strategy to strengthen domestic and foreign information policy.

In today's globalized world, states need to adapt to the ever-changing international environment to ensure their stability and development. Strategies for adapting to the changing international environment include flexibility in foreign policy, development of multilateral relations, integration into international economic and political systems, and constant monitoring of global trends. It is also important to strengthen domestic political stability and economic competitiveness to ensure influence in the international arena. Adopting international standards, introducing innovative technologies, and developing foreign economic relations are also key aspects of effective adaptation.

To summarize, for successful state-building and development of an effective defense strategy, Ukraine needs to focus on strengthening democratic institutions, developing strategic international partnerships, modernizing the defense sector, and creating flexible governance mechanisms. Comprehensive national security strategies that take into account both military and civilian aspects are key to effectively responding to current challenges.

5. Conclusion

To summarize, the history of Ukraine's statehood, having passed through centuries of change, wars, alliances, and transformations, is of inestimable importance for understanding modern Ukrainian statehood. Each historical period, from Kievan Rus to the present day, has made a unique contribution to the political, cultural, and social structure of modern Ukraine.

The historical events that formed the basis of Ukrainian statehood played a key role in shaping national identity and self-awareness. They influenced the choice of strategic directions in politics, economy, culture, and education. Different historical epochs have demonstrated different approaches to governance, interaction with other nations and cultures, and the protection of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Faced with the challenges of external aggression and internal transformation, modern Ukraine uses these historical lessons to build a stable, strong, and independent state. Historical experience has become the foundation for the development of modern governance, defense, and foreign policy strategies. It is also a source of inspiration for the society in its pursuit of democracy, the rule of law and European choice.

The state-building process in Ukraine and the development of its defense strategy are interconnected, demonstrating how historical experience and current challenges shape the country's strategic directions in the field of defense. Unfortunately, the full realization of the need to reform the Armed Forces of Ukraine came only after the Russian invasion. This became a catalyst for taking steps towards reform, which emphasizes the interconnection between the country's defense capabilities and state-building processes. Strengthening defense capabilities is coming to the fore in the context of national security, demonstrating the growing role of the military aspect in the process of forming modern Ukrainian statehood.

To counter external threats and preserve statehood, as well as further develop it, it is advisable to use a number of governance principles, including flexibility and adaptability to respond quickly to changes, centralized command with decentralized execution for optimal resource allocation, integration of civilian and military efforts to ensure a unified strategy, strategic planning to achieve long-term goals, and information transparency and propaganda to effectively inform the public. These principles are important in the context of the formation of modern statehood, as they ensure effective and flexible governance in emergency situations. They allow for an adequate response to military challenges. This is critical for strengthening defense capabilities and conducting a successful defense campaign.

In general, to strengthen Ukraine's state-building and defense strategy, it is recommended to strengthen institutional stability and democratic processes. In addition, it is important to develop strategic partnerships at the international level. It is also important to increase the effectiveness of the defense sector, including the modernization of military efforts, as well as the development of comprehensive national security strategies that cover both military and civilian aspects.

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